

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 16398 071750Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 A-01 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10
L-03 ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11
TRSE-00 /074 W
-----002837 071800Z /44

P R 071737Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1701
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 16398

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, MILI, GW
SUBJECT: HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ACTION ON
GERMAN TANK GUN

REF: BONN 13438 DTG 211808Z JUL 78
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1. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ON SEPTEMBER 12 THE ARMY WILL
FORWARD A NEW REQUEST TO THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE FOR R&D FUNDS FOR THE INTEGRATION OF THE
GERMAN 120 MM GUN INTO THE US XM-1 TANK. IF THE ARMY'S
NEW REQUEST IS APPROVED, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT
THE 120 MM GUN PROGRAM CAN GO FORWARD - I.E., THAT NO

ACTION BY ANY OTHER CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE WILL BE REQUIRED TO INITIATE THE PROGRAM. THE GERMANS WILL BE PLEASED AND THE PROSPECTS FOR BUNDESTAG APPROVAL OF AWACS THIS FALL WILL BE GREATLY ENHANCED.

2. IF THE ARMY'S REQUEST IS TURNED DOWN IN SEPTEMBER, THE IMPACT ON AWACS IS LIKELY TO BE VERY NEGATIVE. IN THE EVENT OF SUCH A TURNDOWN, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE ARMY WILL GO BACK TO THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE RATHER SOON WITH YET ANOTHER REQUEST FOR R&D FUNDS. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT, UNTIL AN R&D REQUEST IS APPROVED AND THE 120 MM GUN PROGRAM LAUNCHED, THE BUNDESTAG WILL WITHHOLD ITS APPROVAL OF AWACS.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANT IMPACT WHICH GERMAN PERCEPTIONS OF THE TANK GUN QUESTION CAN HAVE ON AWACS, WE REQUEST THAT WASHINGTON:

(A) INFORM US OF THE RESULTS OF THE ARMY'S SEPTEMBER R&D REQUEST AS SOON AS THEY ARE KNOWN;

(B) PROVIDE US WITH ANY SUGGESTIONS AS TO WHAT POINTS WE SHOULD MAKE WHEN WE CONVEY THE RESULTS TO THE GERMANS;

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(C) IF THE ARMY'S R&D REQUEST IS TURNED DOWN AGAIN, PROVIDE US WITH PRESS GUIDANCE FOR OUR USE ON AN IF-ASKED BASIS. MEEHAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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